

## Pioneer Homebuilding Methods

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Almost every house of early construction--has a history behind it. These histories are filled with hardships, struggles on the part of the owner and builder, who in most cases was the same person. Many interesting tales have been told of incidents in connection with home building and how it was done.

One of the most interesting of these is the one told by John Woodhouse, a life-time resident of Lehi. He had shown unusual skill and versatility and few men have done more to help the building of a community than he has. He served his city as lawyer, doctor, merchant, lecturer, judge and entertainer, but found time to provide for his family as a farmer and tailor. He tells the following account of the erection of a house in the early days which amply illustrates the spirit of the times.

His story is:

"I purchased a house and lot from Thomas Oakley for which I paid \$300 as follows: I let him have some cattle, a wagon, a bed coverlet woven by Mother Thomas, and the balance in wheat at the Tithing Office to apply on the Oakley family debt to the Perpetual Emigration Fund. During the winter of 1866-67, most of the house fell down, as it had been built of mud without a stone foundation, so I was compelled to build a new one."

"For the benefit of our children, I shall relate how I built a house sixteen feet wide by thirty-four feet long and two stories high, practically without money or credit.

"After the spring work was done on the farm, I moved the family into a small granery, cleared the debris of the old house away and hauled rock for the foundation. Abraham Enough, the mason, was under contract to make adobes for Robert Gilchrist, but would rather aly rock if I could arrange with Gilchrist. When I approached Gilchrist on the matter, he was quite willing that Enough should work for me, and I could pay Gilchrist by making a pair of pants each for himself and brother Niel; thus I get the foundation laid."

"I was considering the best way to get the adobes for the walls, when my neighbor, Andrew F. Peterson, proposed that if I could furnish the material and make him a suit of clothes, he would make my adobes. Making the clothes was a small matter, but to furnish the material was a serious consideration; however, I finally agreed to it. I sheared sheep and earned wool from which my wife spun and wove cloth for two suits of clothes. The one I paid Peterson for the adobe, the other I gave to

John Andreason for the building walls.”

“I procured window and door frames from John C. Naegle which had come out of the buildings at Camp Floyd. I hauled timber from the canyons and made sleepers for floors and plates and stringers for the roof. Several men who were owing me for work done the year previous and were now working at John Zimmerman’s saw mill in American Fork Canyon, paid me in lumber and shingles. I also exchanged work with Newell A. Brown by binding grain for him in the forenoon and receiving his help in putting on the roof in the afternoon when the grain was too dry to bind.”

“The shingle nails used were second hand ones from Camp Floyd and cost 30 cents a pound, while new nails cost 75 cents a pound. The lumber for castings and upstairs floors I bought from Latimer and Taylor, of Salt Lake City, paying \$15 down and promising to pay a fat pig to weigh about 200 pounds at killing time, for the balance.”

“I procured the lumber for the lower floors from Anthony Ivins, of Salt Lake City, agreeing to pay in geese, at the rate of one goose for fifty feet of lumber, the geese to be delivered in time for Christmas dinner. I delivered the geese on time, but I had to leave Lehi in a blinding snow storm to do it.”

“The nails used in the construction of the buildings were made by James W. Taylor and cost two cents each in currency or one cent in gold. I did my own lathing and exchanged work with William Clark and John K. Ross for the plastering. Thus we were able to move into the house and occupy it, although it was not entirely finished. Best of all, it had no encumbrance upon it.”